[31st January 1961

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR: I am not talking about crimes when I put this suggestion. Why not treat it as an election offence, an offence punishable with 2,000 rupees fine or something like that? This is a simple question.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: That has already been examined. I am afraid there are different views on the subject and we are unable to say whether it would or would not offend article 19 (2) of the Constitution. Since there is no clear legal view on that question, Government are not able to proceed with it at all.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN: These children are minors. They are below 17 years. It is these minors that are dragged into the elections. Are the Government aware of the fact that in Western countries there is an understanding among the political parties and also the Government that students should not be involved in any political propaganda and election work? Why not the Government here follow that?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Not only are the Government aware. I am personally aware that students in Western countries do not participate in any election work. But I thought that the restraint came more from the students and homes than from the Government.

State Transport buses from Madras to Mepur

* 48 *Q.*—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to run State Transport buses from Madras to Mepur; and

(*b*) if so, the stage at which the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: (*a*) & (*b*) The Madras State Transport Department is operating two services on the route Madras–Mepur with effect from 1st September 1960.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: With reference to the answer given by the Hon. Minister yesterday, viz., that no shorter route was taken over by the Government Transport, how is it that this route was taken over?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: The decision to run long-distance services was taken only in December 1960 and this was taken over in September 1960.

Sri Thiruvatheeswarar temple

* 49 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any instances of removal of contents of the Undi of Sri Thiruvatheeswarar temple at Triplicane, Madras, have been brought to the notice of the Government: and

(*b*) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) No, Sir. The Government understand that an unsuccessful attempt was made to open a temporary *undial*. The contents of the *undial* were never removed and nothing was lost.

(b) The Devasthanam authorities have been instructed to use iron *undials* and have them fixed permanently.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Who brought this tampering to the notice of the Government, the Executive Officer?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Whoever has brought it to our notice, the Assistant Commissioner has taken steps to issue instructions to the effect that the undial should be made of iron and permanently fixed.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is there any rule regarding the opening of the undis in temples?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Rules vary from temple to temple. It is not a stereotyped rule that is being observed.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is it not a fact that the trustee in question opened the *undial* on his own without the knowledge of anybody and did not even tell the authorities what amount was found in it?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I have no information about it.

DR. A. CHIDAMBARANATHAN : Are there precautions like double-lock system in regard to these *undis* in temples? If not, will the Government insist on such things in future?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : It is all there; but this was a temporary *undial* and, therefore, the Assistant Commissioner has instructed that it should be of iron and permanently fixed at particular points.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will Government take legal proceedings against this trustee for recovery of the money?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Nothing has been lost and so no question of recovery arises.

Supply of pesticides

* 50 Q.—MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member is not in his seat. The question together with the answer will be published in the Official Report of the proceedings. 3-10 p.m.

* 50 Q.—SRI A. K. THANGAVEL MUDALIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to supply to the agriculturists in Chingleput and North Arcot districts, pesticides at half the rate for the protection of groundnut crops?